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REPORT ON 1972 RELEASEES TO PAROLE SUPERVISION  
FROM MASSACHUSETTS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Part II: Time-Related Variables

Massachusetts Parole Board

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April, 1973

Produced By:

Parole-Correction Information System  
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## A. INTRODUCTION

This is the second of a series of three reports describing persons released from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions to parole supervision during 1972. These reports were generated from a computerized file of data about parolees that was developed by the Parole-Correction Information System. These reports should function not only to describe parole clients, but also to give parole staff a clearer idea of the types of information requests that can be satisfied by the Information System.

The first report summarized information known at the time of admission to parole, such as institution released from, parole district released to, release reserve conditions and behavioral release conditions. The third report will summarize social background and criminal history information known at the time of admission to prison. This report will present data on the following time-related variables:

- length of time served before release
- days over earliest release (reserve) date
- length of time to serve on parole
- age at release.

## B. METHOD

The sample described in this report consists of the 1366 state commitments released to parole supervision at least once during 1972. In some tables a large proportion of data will be "unknown." The percentages in the tables below will therefore be percentages of the "known total."

### C. FINDINGS

#### 1. LENGTH OF TIME INCARCERATED BEFORE RELEASE, FOR THOSE ON FIRST PAROLE DURING THIS SENTENCE

The 1366 state parole releasees were comprised of three groups of persons:

(a) 1049 persons receiving their first parole on the present sentence; (b) 206 persons who had been previously violated and were being paroled for the second or subsequent time on the present sentence; (c) 111 persons on whom data was unavailable about the number of previous paroles during this sentence.

Table I presents, by releasing institution, the length of incarceration for the 1049 state releasees on their first parole during the present sentence.

The group of residents on their first parole during this commitment typically spent 14 months in the institutions prior to release. Further, parolees from Walpole, Norfolk and Forestry were incarcerated almost three times as long as were parolees from Concord, Pre-Release and Framingham. In essence, this finding is that Walpole commitments serve almost three times as long until their first parole as do Concord commitments.

The typical length of time from commitment to first parole was 36 months for Walpole parolees, 27 months for Norfolk parolees and 20 months for Forestry parolees. One implication of these findings is that, while pre-release planning with the institutional parole officer usually takes place only in the last three months before release, there is a long preceding period of separation from the community. This underscores the particular importance of the furlough program for Walpole, Norfolk and Forestry men, through its helping to maintain community ties during incarceration.

The typical length of time from commitment to first parole was much shorter for parolees from other institutions. The typical length of incarceration was 9 months for parolees from Framingham and 10 months for parolees from Concord and

Pre-Release. Further, 71% of Concord and Pre-Release parolees spent one year or less, while 92% spent two years or less. Board policy of granting a parole hearing at a one year maximum for Concord commitments is apparently working so that a large majority of men are released at their first hearing. The large proportion of Concord and Pre-Release residents released after having spent six months or less (29%) points to the overload on the facilities of the Concord institutional parole office. Often, case data is not received by the IPO until several weeks have elapsed after commitment, with the result that the Board then frequently has sketchy information on six month cases. Jail time often shortens the period from commitment to parole eligibility below six or twelve months.

TABLE I

## LENGTH OF TIME INCARCERATED BY M. C. I. RELEASEES ON FIRST PAROLE DURING PRESENT SENTENCE.

## BY INSTITUTION RELEASED FROM

Months	Walpole	Norfolk	Forestry	Concord & Pre-Release	Framingham	Other	TOTAL
	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
	Cum. %	Cum. %	Cum. %	Cum. %	Cum. %	Cum. %	Cum. %
3 mos. or less	1 ( 1%)	2 ( 1%)	2 ( 2%)	10 ( 2%)	1 ( 2%)	0 ( 0%)	16 ( 2%)
4 - 6 mos.	2 ( 3%)	2 ( 2%)	3 ( 4%)	149 ( 29%)	20 ( 36%)	2 ( 15%)	178 ( 19%)
7 mos. - 1 yr.	8 ( 12%)	14 ( 8%)	25 ( 25%)	224 ( 71%)	22 ( 74%)	1 ( 23%)	294 ( 47%)
13 mos. - 2 yrs.	21 ( 36%)	84 ( 46%)	44 ( 61%)	116 ( 92%)	14 ( 98%)	5 ( 62%)	284 ( 74%)
25 mos. - 3 yrs.	13 ( 51%)	42 ( 65%)	20 ( 77%)	23 ( 96%)	1 ( 100%)	3 ( 85%)	102 ( 84%)
37 mos. - 4 yrs.	15 ( 67%)	26 ( 77%)	14 ( 89%)	9 ( 98%)	0 ( 100%)	0 ( 85%)	64 ( 90%)
Over 4 yrs.	29 (100%)	50 (100%)	14 (100%)	12 (100%)	0 (100%)	2 (100%)	107 (100%)
Unknown	2	0	1	1	0	0	4
TOTAL	91	220	123	544	58	13	1049
AVERAGE*	36 mos.	27 mos.	21 mos.	10 mos.	9 mos.	19 mos.	14 mos.

\* The "averages" presented above represent the median lengths of incarceration. The mean lengths of incarceration are as follows: Walpole, 54.7 months; Norfolk, 42.4; Forestry, 26.6; Concord and Pre-Release, 12.6; Framingham, 10.4; Other, 25.3; and TOTAL, 24.1.

2. LENGTH OF TIME INCARCERATED BEFORE RELEASE. FOR PAROLE VIOLATORS

Table II presents, by releasing institution, the length of incarceration for the 206 persons released on their second or subsequent parole during the present sentence. To reiterate, these figures pertain to those parole violators returned on the same sentence, i.e., not on a new court commitment.

The average length of incarceration for parole violators was 7 months, as opposed to 14 months for first-releasees. Several patterns here are of interest. First, the average length of incarceration varied less among the different institutions for parole violators than for first-releasees. It varies from 5 months at Concord and Pre-Release to 11 months at Forestry. Second, parole violators released from Concord, Pre-Release and Framingham spend about half as much time incarcerated as do first-releasees from these institutions, while parole violators released from Walpole, Norfolk and Forestry spend about a quarter as much time as do first-releasees from these institutions. Third, the typical length of incarceration of parole violators released from Walpole is similar to that of parole violators released from Concord, Pre-Release and Framingham, while the typical length of incarceration of parole violators released from Norfolk and Forestry was much greater.

TABLE II

LENGTH OF TIME INCARCERATED BY M. C. I. RELEASEES ON SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT PAROLE DURING PRESENT SENTENCE.

BY INSTITUTION RELEASED FROM

<u>Months</u>	<u>Walpole</u>	<u>Norfolk</u>	<u>Forestry</u>	<u>Concord &amp; Pre-Release</u>	<u>Framingham</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>N</u> <u>Cum. %</u>	<u>N</u> <u>Cum. %</u>	<u>N</u> <u>Cum. %</u>	<u>N</u> <u>Cum. %</u>	<u>N</u> <u>Cum. %</u>	<u>N</u> <u>Cum. %</u>	<u>N</u> <u>Cum. %</u>
3 mos. or less	19 ( 33%)	6 ( 21%)	0 ( 0%)	33 ( 33%)	2 ( 13%)	0 - - -	60 ( 29%)
4 - 6 mos.	12 ( 53%)	4 ( 36%)	0 ( 0%)	20 ( 53%)	4 ( 40%)	0 - - -	40 ( 49%)
7 mos. - 1 yr.	13 ( 76%)	6 ( 57%)	2 ( 40%)	27 ( 80%)	8 ( 93%)	0 - - -	56 ( 76%)
13 mos. - 2 yrs.	10 ( 93%)	6 ( 79%)	2 ( 80%)	19 ( 99%)	1 ( 100%)	0 - - -	38 ( 94%)
Over 2 yrs.	<u>4</u> (100%)	<u>6</u> (100%)	<u>1</u> (100%)	<u>1</u> (100%)	<u>0</u> (100%)	<u>0</u> - - -	<u>12</u> (100%)
TOTAL	58	28	5	100	15	0	206
<u>AVERAGE*</u>	6 mos.	10 mos.	11 mos.	5 mos.	7 mos.	- - - -	7 mos.

\* The "average" above again represents the median length of incarceration. The mean lengths of incarceration are as follows: Walpole, 9.2 months; Norfolk, 14.5; Forestry, 16.8; Concord and Pre-Release, 7.4; Framingham, 7.2; and TOTAL, 9.1.

### 3. DAYS OVER RELEASE DATE

A small segment of the time spent incarcerated prior to release on parole is dependent upon the Board and the release program of the parolee. That is, the Board may assign a release date of April 1, but due to the non-satisfaction of reserve conditions the resident may spend one or more days after that date waiting for approval of those plans by the Board, and his subsequent release. This "days over" time may be the most difficult of the entire incarceration. In some cases, the plans may be approved, but staff may not be available to bring the parole permit from the Central Office to the institution. Table III presents, by releasing institution, the numbers of 1972 state parolees who were released within various time periods beyond their release (reserve) date.

The key finding presented in this table is that 15% of the state parolees were released after the parole date. This can be viewed from two perspectives. First, even with the inherent difficulties of arranging a parole program while still in the institution, 85% of the total were released on their possible date (either straight or reserve). Second, the length of time in the institution over the parole date ranged from one day to over 99 days. 3% of the state parolees spent more than 3 weeks in the institution after their parole date.\*

Although the differences are not statistically significant\*\*, there appears to be variation among institutions in the percentage of residents held over beyond their release date. Proportionately twice as many parolees were held over at Walpole (18%) and at Concord and Pre-Release (17%) that was the case at the

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\* During 1972 state parolees spent a total of 2629 days (or 7.2 years) incarcerated beyond their release dates. Concord and Pre-Release parolees spent a total of 1658 days (or 4.5 years) incarcerated beyond their release dates.

\*\* The single exception is that significantly more Concord and Pre-Release parolees (17%) were held over than was the case for other state parolees (12%),  $X^2=6.26$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p<.02$ .



other institutions - 11% at Norfolk, 9% at Forestry and 8% at Framingham. This problem is of particular concern for parolees from Concord and Pre-Release, because of the large number of these parolees. A sizable majority (60%) of the state parolees held over beyond their release date were parolees from Concord or Pre-Release.

TABLE III

DAYS OVER RELEASE DATE, BY INSTITUTION RELEASED FROM

<u>Days Over</u>	<u>Walpole</u>		<u>Norfolk</u>		<u>Forestry</u>		<u>Concord &amp; Pre-Release</u>		<u>Framingham</u>		<u>Other</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
None	123	( 82%)	220	( 89%)	80	( 91%)	535	( 83%)	67	( 92%)	48	( 90%)	1073	( 85%)
1 - 3	10	( 7%)	11	( 5%)	1	( 1%)	19	( 3%)	3	( 4%)	0	( 0%)	44	( 4%)
4 - 7	8	( 5%)	6	( 2%)	2	( 2%)	31	( 5%)	1	( 1%)	2	( 4%)	50	( 4%)
8 - 21	4	( 3%)	10	( 4%)	5	( 6%)	32	( 5%)	0	( 0%)	2	( 4%)	53	( 4%)
Over 3 wks.	4	( 3%)	1	( 0%)	0	( 0%)	27	( 4%)	2	( 3%)	1	( 2%)	35	( 3%)
Unknown	<u>9</u>		<u>23</u>		<u>7</u>		<u>55</u>		<u>16</u>		<u>0</u>		<u>111</u>	
TOTAL	158		271		95		700		89		53		1366	

4. DAYS OVER RELEASE DATE, BY RELEASE RESERVE CONDITIONS

Table IV presents, by releasing institution, the proportions of state parolees with various reserve conditions who were released beyond their parole date.

Although the differences are not statistically significant, the likelihood of being held over may partly depend upon the type of reserve condition. Parolees with work conditions, or home and work conditions, were more often held over, while parolees with out-of-state or warrant conditions were less often held over. Even a straight parole, however, does not in all cases guarantee release on that date. 6% of those with straight paroles spent some time over.

TABLE IV

WHETHER RELEASED BEYOND RELEASE DATE,  
BY RELEASE RESERVE CONDITION

<u>Condition</u>	<u>DAYS OVER RELEASE DATE</u>			
	<u>None</u>		<u>Some</u>	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
None	351	(94%)	21	( 6%)
Some	431	(74%)	151	(26%)
Work	84	(68%)	40	(32%)
Home	44	(75%)	15	(25%)
Home & Work	135	(71%)	56	(29%)
Residential Ctr.	96	(77%)	28	(23%)
Out-of-State	25	(89%)	3	(11%)
Warrant	41	(84%)	8	(16%)
Special Services	6	(86%)	1	(14%)
Unknown	<u>291</u>		<u>1</u>	
TOTAL	1073		173	

5. TIME TO SERVE ON PAROLE

Table V presents, by releasing institution, the time period between the release date and the expiration-discharge date for 1972 state parolees. (Discharge date was used when available at the time of data collection; expiration date was used in cases when discharge date had not been computed at the time of release.)

The typical period of time to serve on parole was 4.2 years (excluding those on parole for life). This typical period of time to serve on parole does not vary a great deal among releasing institutions. It is 4.1 years for Framingham and 4.0 years for Concord and Pre-Release; while it is 4.6 years for Walpole, 5.6 years for Norfolk and 5.3 years for Forestry.

More importantly, the range of lengths of time to spend on parole varies a great deal among releasing institutions. Two-thirds of the parolees from Concord, Pre-Release and Framingham had between 3 and 5 years to serve on parole, and less than a tenth had 5 years or more to serve on parole (because of 5 Indefinite sentences, of course). On the other hand, over a half of the parolees from Walpole, Norfolk and Forestry had 5 years or more to serve on parole, and a fifth had 10 years or more to serve on parole.

TABLE V

LENGTH OF TIME TO SERVE ON PAROLE, BY INSTITUTION RELEASED FROM

<u>Years</u>	<u>Walpole</u>	<u>Norfolk</u>	<u>Forestry</u>	<u>Concord &amp; Pre-Release</u>	<u>Framingham</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %
Less than 1	9 ( 6%)	1 ( 0%)	1 ( 1%)	17 ( 2%)	3 ( 5%)	2 ( 4%)	33 ( 3%)
1 up to 2	10 ( 7%)	11 ( 5%)	3 ( 4%)	51 ( 8%)	10 ( 15%)	2 ( 4%)	87 ( 7%)
2 up to 3	24 ( 16%)	28 ( 12%)	7 ( 8%)	68 ( 11%)	7 ( 11%)	9 ( 18%)	143 ( 12%)
3 up to 4	20 ( 14%)	37 ( 15%)	15 ( 18%)	167 ( 27%)	15 ( 22%)	12 ( 25%)	266 ( 22%)
4 up to 5	17 ( 12%)	30 ( 12%)	13 ( 15%)	272 ( 43%)	27 ( 40%)	15 ( 31%)	374 ( 31%)
5 up to 10	37 ( 25%)	81 ( 34%)	34 ( 41%)	42 ( 7%)	5 ( 7%)	6 ( 12%)	205 ( 17%)
10 up to 26	21 ( 14%)	45 ( 19%)	11 ( 13%)	12 ( 2%)	0 ( 0%)	3 ( 6%)	92 ( 7%)
For life	9 ( 6%)	6 ( 3%)	0 ( 0%)	0 ( 0%)	0 ( 0%)	0 ( 0%)	15 ( 1%)
Unknown	<u>11</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>151</u>
TOTAL	158	271	95	700	89	53	1366
AVERAGE*	4.6 yrs.	5.6 yrs.	5.3 yrs.	4.0 yrs.	4.1 yrs.	4.0 yrs.	4.2 yrs.

\* The "average" above represents the median time to serve on parole. The mean length of time to serve on parole is as follows: Walpole, 5.8 years; Norfolk, 6.8; Forestry, 6.4; Concord and Pre-Release, 4.0; Framingham, 3.6; other, 5.1; TOTAL, 4.5.

6. AGE AT RELEASE

Table VI presents, by releasing institution, the age at release of 1972 state parolees.

The typical age at release was 25. This figure was about 30 for parolees from Walpole, Norfolk or Forestry. It was 22 for parolees from Concord and Pre-Release and 24 for parolees from Framingham. About a fifth of the parolees from Walpole, Norfolk and Forestry were 40 or above, while there were very few older parolees from Framingham (with the reduction in drunkenness commitments) or Concord. Under a fifth of the parolees from Walpole, Norfolk and Forestry were under 25, while three-quarters of the Concord and Pre-Release parolees and slightly over half of the Framingham parolees were under 25.

TABLE VI

AGE AT RELEASE TO PAROLE SUPERVISION, BY INSTITUTION RELEASED FROM

<u>Age</u>	<u>Walpole</u>		<u>Norfolk</u>		<u>Forestry</u>		<u>Concord &amp; Pre-Release</u>		<u>Framingham</u>		<u>Other</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Under 20	1	( 1%)	3	( 1%)	3	( 3%)	123	( 18%)	10	( 12%)	6	( 12%)	146	( 11%)
20 - 24	27	( 17%)	44	( 16%)	14	( 15%)	383	( 55%)	37	( 43%)	20	( 38%)	525	( 39%)
25 - 29	43	( 28%)	79	( 29%)	33	( 35%)	131	( 19%)	25	( 29%)	12	( 23%)	323	( 24%)
30 - 39	56	( 36%)	80	( 30%)	28	( 29%)	41	( 6%)	9	( 10%)	10	( 19%)	224	( 16%)
40 - 49	21	( 13%)	44	( 16%)	15	( 16%)	6	( 1%)	4	( 5%)	2	( 4%)	92	( 7%)
50 or more	8	( 5%)	20	( 8%)	2	( 2%)	8	( 1%)	1	( 1%)	2	( 4%)	41	( 3%)
Unknown	<u>2</u>		<u>1</u>		<u>0</u>		<u>8</u>		<u>3</u>		<u>1</u>		<u>15</u>	
<u>5</u> TOTAL	158		271		95		700		89		53		1366	
AVERAGE*	31 yrs.		30 yrs.		29 yrs.		22 yrs.		24 yrs.		24 yrs.		25 yrs.	

\* The "average" above represents the median ages. The mean ages at release are as follows: Walpole, 33; Norfolk, 33; Forestry, 31; Concord and Pre-Release, 23; Framingham, 26; other, 26; and TOTAL, 27.